

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 35-62 are presented for reconsideration and to permit withdrawal of the Final Rejection. Claims 35, 36, 42, 43, 47, 51, 55 and 59 are independent. Claim 39 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 35, 36, 41-43, 47, 50, 51, 54, 55, 58, 59, and 62 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 35-44, 48, 50-52, 54, 55, 58-60 and 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0084085 to Breidenbach. Claims 45 and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Breidenbach publication as applied to claim 43 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,298 to Ho et al. Applicants submit that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 35-62. Therefore, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicants has amended independent claims 35, 36, 42, 43, 47, 51, 55 and 59, in order to amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

Applicants submit that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 35, 36, 42, 43, 47, 51, 55 and 59.

Independent claim 35, as proposed, now emphasizes that an assignment means (S12) determines a presence/absence or comparative merits of each of a plurality of functions of the

image supply device and the recording device, wherein that plurality of functions include an operation controller for controlling a user interface of the recording system, and assigns the plurality of functions to the image supply device and the recording device based on the presence/absence or comparative merits of each of the plurality of functions. Claim 35 further emphasizes that the image data is selected using the operation controller assigned by the assignment means.

Independent claim 36 is a method claim that likewise has been proposed to emphasize features, as in proposed independent claim 35. The additional independent claims 42, 43, 47, 51, 55 and 59, as proposed, include limitations of “an operation controller including a user interface, a storage controller for controlling a storage storing an image file and a print controller for controlling a print operation,” as in the plurality of function limitations proposed for independent claims 35 and 36.

The Breidenbach publication merely discloses a system for improving the performance of a plurality of peripheral devices which are connected via a network 110. If a digital camera 116 is connected to a printer 104 via the network, the digital camera 116 provides as a function of a GUI for the printer 104. In this configuration, the digital camera 116 and the printer 104 exchange information regarding each peripheral device's capabilities, and the information is presented to a user of the digital camera 116 and the printer 104 via the GUI 416 on the digital camera 116. The digital camera 116 has a display and provides the GUI 416 for the printer, and the GUI 416 presents an extended capabilities (FIG. 7B) from the combination of the digital camera 116 and the printer 104.

Hence, it is apparent that the Breidenbach publication merely discloses that the digital camera 116 unconditionally provides a function of the GUI for the printer 104. The Breidenbach

publication, however, does not determine a presence/absence or comparative merits of each of a plurality of functions of an image supply device and a recording device in order to assign the plurality of functions to the image supply device and the recording device.

The secondary teachings of the Ho et al. patent also do not teach or suggest the above-described characteristics of the present invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 35, 36, 42, 43, 47, 51, 55 and 59, is patentably defined over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

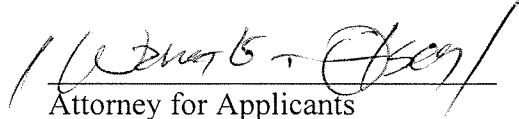
Dependent claims 37-41, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-58 and 60-62 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicants, therefore, submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection places this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 CFR 1.116.

Applicants also request favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Warren E. Olsen", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Warren E. Olsen
Registration No. 27,290

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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